

## ESSENTIALS

Joe Fluty had an old  
Model A  
that he called Ruby Keeler

and he loaded up and  
left for California

didn't take anyone with him  
but a coondog  
and some scratchy records

of Jimmy Rogers

## JUST BEFORE THE 1932 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

A thin and threadbare time  
it was  
for women like my mother  
wrapped in faith  
that made a garment  
she knew help must come from  
higher up  
no wonder that she sang

There Is A Balm In Gilead  
pulled the last turnip  
from hardened soil and  
went on singing

To Heal The Sinsick Soul  
shared the turnips with  
Widow Haley